GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:67
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Animal Fodder
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ???? ??? ????? ?????? ??????
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme/programme for the development and production of animal fodder, especially in the context of prevailing widespread drought in various States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether pasture land in villages is on the decline on account of degradation and/or encroachment resulting in scarcity of animal fodder and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of rural pastures/grazing land, State-wise, along with action taken for removal of encroachment on such land at the earliest;

(d) whether the Union Government has approached the State Governments/Central Ministries of Railways, Defence, Urban Development and suggested alternative spots/unused lands which could be utilised for cultivating animal fodder and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to grow alternative grasses/ nutritive fodder to be planted in the areas occupied by the Parthenium weed?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *67 PUT IN BY SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY ON "ANIMAL FODDER" DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01ST MARCH, 2016.

a) Government of India has already taken necessary steps to increase fodder production in various parts of the country by providing financial assistance to the States / UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development. The detailed components of the Sub-Mission are mentioned at Annexure-I.
Further, Government formulated Accelerated Fodder Development Programme in 2011-12 under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare which continued upto 2013-14. The assistance for fodder development was also provided under this scheme.
From 2014-15, Additional Fodder Development Programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare has been formulated for drought affected areas, which is continuing at present.
The details of funds released under all the above programmes are given at Annexure-II.
Further, States undertake Fodder Development under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as per their requirement, which is approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary.
b) & c) As per the latest report furnished by Directorate of Economics & Statistics Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare in their Land Use Statistics at Glance May 2015 report, there is a marginal decrease in the area under permanent pastures and other grazing lands in the country from 10,484 thousand hectares in 2003-04 to 10,305 thousand hectares in 2011-12 to 10,240 thousand hectare in 2012-13. Reasons for gradual decrease in area under pasture land across the States are that some of these lands have either been diverted for other agriculture purposes or encroached upon thereby restricting availability for livestock grazing. The responsibility to safeguard against encroachment of land lies with the State Governments.

The details of State-wise pasture and other grazing land available in the country, during 2003-04, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are given at Annexure-III.

d) The Department approached the Ministry of Railways for utilisation of land along railway tracks for growing fodder. However, the Department has received a communication from the Ministry of Railways that in view of safety of train operations, it would not be

feasible for them to promote growing of grasses for fodder purpose on either side of the tracks.

e) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has issued advisories from time to time regarding better practices for management of grassland for increasing availability of fodder as well as for mitigating the effects of natural calamities. Mechanical means like deep ploughing before flowering and growing of fast maturing crops like sorghum, daincha etc. also suppress the growth of parthenium. Further, chemical means are also used to suppress the growth of parthenium.

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